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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1910.

BESIDE THE SUBJECT.

Dr. Hadley's Commission on Railroad Securities is hard at work, and we are sure that, under his direction, it will do its work thoroughly and well. It has taken testimony from a large number of witnesses during the last week or ten days, and while a great deal of the information it has obtained appears to be abundant, it will doubtless be turned to good account by the Commission in announcing its conclusions. The purpose for which the Commission was created is to ascertain the value of railroad securities and to suggest the best way to regulate the issuing of such securities for the protection of the investing public and in the interest of the railroads themselves.

As we understand it, there is nothing to do with the question of railroad regulation and control further than such regulation and control shall be affected by the special inquiry the Commission is making. Some of the men who have appeared before the Commission have exceeded the speed limit, so to say, in their observations, as, for example, in the case of Brother Jacob H. Schiff, who offered the Commission sundry observations about Government ownership of the railroads, which did not seem to be wholly germane to the subject under consideration. Protesting that he was not an advocate of the New Nationalism, a theory that was badly disfigured on the 8th of November, this wise old financier avowed that the Interstate Commerce Commission is the only authority that should have any voice in the control of railroads doing an interstate business, and he concluded in proverbial form thus: "We cannot serve two masters and prosper." We suppose Mr. Schiff meant to say "regulation," not "control," because there is a vital difference between the two. Control means, in fact, ownership without responsibility; regulation, to which the railroads do not object, and which they really want, means the enactment and enforcement of laws which will give them a free hand in the management of their own business and protect them from the interference of impracticable trouble-makers.

It is very doubtful that the Government, through any of its agencies, should attempt to regulate the bond issues of the railroad companies further than to inquire into the values upon which such issues are based. Whether or not there should be a physical valuation of the railroads is also a question that cannot be and should not be determined with haste. A case in point appears in the report which Professor Swain, of Harvard University, is making up for the Massachusetts Commission of the value of the property of the New Haven system. His examination has proved to his own satisfaction that the value of the properties of the company closely approximates \$500,000,000. The book value of the same properties, as estimated by the officers of the company, is \$125,000,000. Whether or not they have been undervalued to escape taxation, we do not know; certainly they have not been overvalued for purposes of capitalization. There is doubtless a great deal of "water" in some railroad securities, but not more in proportion than there is in the invisible "visible supply" of cotton, for example, in which sign the prices of the staple are largely controlled. It is the same thing with pork and wheat and corn and all the other products of the field; yet there has been no insistent demand that the Government shall interfere with the business affairs of the people, the men who sow and reap and the speculators who gather the ducats of the consumers into their hands.

In a recent number, Financial America makes some very pertinent comments on the subject of railroad valuation by a Government Commission for the benefit of the investing public, for the inquiry can be of little benefit to anybody else. There are constant fluctuations in railroad securities, just as there are in the values of cotton and pork and wheat and corn, the railroad being a business enterprise in somewhat the same way that an iron furnace or a cotton mill or a sugar refinery is a business enterprise, and subject in its earning capacity to many of the influences which affect the scale of prices, with this difference, however, that the railroad must submit all its rates for service to the approval of an outside agency in no sense responsible for its success or failure. Financial America says:

"The contention that a railroad's valuation is the cost of its reproduction is both economically and logically untenable. Such a basis makes no allowance for the 'use' of the railroad—the real determining factor in the valuation of anything. The machinery in an abandoned mine is properly rated as junk; in a going concern the use to which the junk's counterpart is being put gives it an increased value. And the argument that rates are based on capitalization is equally false if this were a true efficiency

would be penalized practically, because the rates would be greater on an extravagantly constructed and operated system than on one economically built and managed. The only pecuniary gain of a railroad comes from its operation—its use. Its tracks, its rolling stock, its terminal and other buildings—all mean nothing to it unless they are being used. Yet the physical valuation theorists make no allowance for the 'use'—the element of factor which gives the railroad life and existence. Capitalization, of course, should not exceed the cost of production, plus what we may define as a soberly estimated earning power. If the capitalization so greatly exceeds the cost of production of a railroad property as to lead to the impression that the earning power has been greatly exaggerated, then the charge of over-capitalization will lie. This, needless to add, must be condemned; but to tell us that our railroads are undervalued from such a charge—the more important systems especially."

Dr. Hadley's Commission will find out that a good many things the shippers and politicians and "reformers" have been saying are not true, and we may be sure that he and his associates will sift out the wheat from all the chaff the brokers and railroad people have been saying without special bearing. It seems to us, upon the proper subject of their inquiry.

MORTON MARVE.

It is fitting that the flag of Virginia flies at half mast. In the passing of Morton Marve from the place in the Capitol which he had held for twenty-seven years, the Commonwealth of Virginia lost an incorruptible public servant, a citizen who had offered his life for his State, and who wore an empty trousers' leg as the result of his bravery. As Auditor of Public Accounts, Colonel Marve served Virginia with the same loyalty and devotion which characterized his record when the Stars and Bars floated over Capitol Hill.

A splendid gentleman, a gallant soldier, a faithful officer, Colonel Marve passed into final sleep with the full consciousness of duty performed, of trusts honestly and ably discharged. Public servants of his type are all too rare. It is fitting that the flag of Virginia flies at half mast.

JUDGE CHICHESTER.

To the Virginia Judiciary an excellent addition has been made in the person of Judge R. H. L. Chichester, of Stafford, who was yesterday designated by Governor Mann to preside over the Fifteenth Circuit as the successor of the late Judge John E. Mason. General approval will be awarded to this appointee. Formerly judge of the county court of Stafford, Judge Chichester brings to the bench previous experience in the judicial office, which especially fits him for the duties and responsibilities now devolving upon him. A seasoned and successful lawyer, a member of a family which has given and is still giving able lawyers to the Commonwealth, learned in the law and capable of fine public service, Judge Chichester gives promise of distinction on the bench. In vesting him with the ermine, Governor Mann made no mistake.

WHY THE CHIEF JUSTICE SEES STRAIGHT.

Chief Justice White is a true Southern gentleman. When he arrived at a concert recently given in Washington he found that he had left his eyeglasses at home, and he could not find the programme. His wife was with him, and the friend with whom she was accompanied offered the Chief Justice her glasses; but they did not suit his eyes, and, turning, as the story goes, to Mrs. White, the Chief Justice said: "May I try your glasses, please, my dear?"

Settling the glasses at the proper angle, the Chief Justice studied the programme with great satisfaction, remarking gallantly:

"Fine, fine, my dear. I felt sure your glasses would suit. Everybody knows I always see through your eyes."

A FEMINE MAYOR.

A woman is the chief municipal authority in Oldham, England. That town is the third English town to break the tradition that a man shall be its Mayor. So great was the interest in the installation of the new city executive that she was invested with the insignia of office in the capacious town hall, rather than in the small private room which had hitherto been used for such ceremonies. When the woman Mayor-elect entered the hall, the great crowd present sprang to their feet and cheered and applauded long and heartily.

The inaugural speech of the new Mayor, Mrs. Lees, was filled with wit and wisdom, and the citizens were delighted with her first official utterance. The Christian Herald says that "she seemed like the mother of a great family before whom her children rise up and call her blessed." She is "a tall, dignified woman, with a calm, beautiful, humorous face, crowned with white hair."

In this connection it should be noted that Kansas has had a number of woman mayors who have been re-elected with great majorities. The natural and instinctive executive ability of a woman makes her a good Mayor in any town.

HITCHCOCK HARD AFTER THEM.

Hitchcock, the man the muckrakers and cheap newspapers have been trying to drive out of the Cabinet, is coming into his own, as we were sure he would, and is now patronized by some of those who have reviled him because he is making things very hot for quite a variety of speculators.

The Redeemable Investment Company, with headquarters in Boston, has fallen into his hands. It is capitalized at \$10,000,000 as the holding concern of the Okanogan Development Company, the Boston and Canada Wheat Land Company, the Norman Plains Lumber Company and

the Santo Domingo Company. The Okanogan Company claimed to have enormous assets in the State of Washington worth millions of dollars. Hitchcock found upon investigation that its property was purchased for \$3,000, of which \$1,500 was payable in six months and \$1,500 in one year, and that the payments had never been completed. The Boston and Canada Wheat Company claimed to own 23,000 acres of land in Saskatchewan, but it only held a contract to purchase these lands, and had not paid for them when its representations were made to the investing public. The Norman Plains Lumber Company claimed to own an extensive tract of land in British Columbia, reputed to be worth millions; but which, on investigation, was found to be without value. No earnings had been made by the Santo Domingo concern, although dividends had been paid, and on iron and coal properties in New Mexico, on which the Redeemable Investment Company had "defrauded" the public out of large sums of money, the company did not own, in fact.

These are the conclusions reached by Hitchcock in his investigations, and he has caused the arrest of the President of the Investment Company for using the United States mails for fraudulent purposes. It is good work, and Hitchcock is becoming a terror to evil doers. We wish him a very happy Christmas. There is no longer any talk of his being "fired" from the Cabinet.

HENRY WATTS' HUMAN TOUCH.

Henry Watterson is writing for the Louisville Courier-Journal his "Impressions" of Washington, or about things he has heard and seen during his present sojourn there. We wish he were a member of Congress, so that he could carry out his good intentions. Among other things that have happened to him lately is a closer acquaintance with the President, who is reported by him to have said to a Democratic friend who mentioned the tariff situation: "I have my days of sorrow; now you are coming to yours." That was a fine sentiment, just as if he had said, "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin," or something like that; but it was very good as the President said it, and we are glad that "Marse Henry" remembered it, because it proved to him what we have been telling him all the time about the great big man in the White House. "None know him but to love him; none name him but to praise."

Mr. Watterson will recognize the paraphrase as not taken from his hymn-book, but from Hitchcock's touching tribute to Joseph Rodman Drake. The point, however, is that there is nothing after all like the personal touch to make men understand one another better. This does not mean, of course, that because he likes Mr. Taft better now than ever he is in any way bound to vote for him; but only that "Marse Henry" should apply himself to the more active study of the "understanding clause."

And having administered this mild castigation to the Dean of the Newspaper Faculty of America, we wish him a very happy Christmas and the Star-Eyed One the greatest year she has had since the late eighties.

THE INSURGENTS AND SHIP SUBSIDIES.

When the ship subsidy bill is taken up in the United States Senate next month, it is said that the insurgent Senators will insist upon a thorough discussion of the navigation laws of the United States, having reached the conclusion, as reported by the Indianapolis News, that "the merchant marine of the country can be benefited more by a revision of the navigation laws than by the voting of a ship subsidy to a few favorites."

This is really the best thing we have ever heard about the insurgents, and it is hoped that they will carry out their alleged good intentions. The building up of the merchant marine by subsidies is only incidental to obtaining the subsidies not for the benefit of the commerce and industries of the country, but for the purpose of enabling a handful of shipbuilders to get money they have not earned.

The balance of trade is with us; that is the best and surest sign that the trade of the United States has not suffered by the shipment of the stuff we make to foreign markets.

Subsidies for ships is only an extension of the principle of protection, a principle against which there is a steadily rising tide of popular displeasure. All power to the insurgents in their intended fight against the ship subsidy steel!

CHECKING THE LAW'S DELAYS.

The famous Chippen case and the speed with which the English legal machinery moved in it have caused much comment to be made on the dilatory legal procedure which is characteristic of this country. Anticipating this popular criticism, a committee of the American Institute of Criminal Law went to England last spring to make a close study of English courts in action. The committee was composed of distinguished law school teachers and jurists. It has issued a prospectus for a reform of American criminal court practice, which is as follows:

1. All objections to the indictment should be made before evidence is heard, and errors in matter of form amended at once.

2. The prosecuting attorney and counsel for the defense should before trial consider and discuss the qualifications of the individual members of the jury panel and agree to the dismissal of any one clearly incompetent to be a juror.

3. The voir dire should be limited to the asking of questions strongly tending to show incompetency or bias in the present trial.

4. All prisoners on trial upon indictment who are unable to employ counsel should be furnished with legal assistance throughout the trial, including the arraignment.

5. The prosecuting attorney, instead of being a partisan, should investigate the case from a non-partisan standpoint, and should make an impartial presentation of the evidence to the jury.

6. The fee system, wherever it exists, for the compensation of prosecuting attorneys, should be abolished.

7. Counsel for the prisoner should defend him by endeavoring to disprove his guilt, and never by injecting error in the record.

8. The trial judge should not be a mere presiding officer, but should take an active interest in the trial. He should restrict counsel to the asking of relevant questions. He should promptly overrule and discourage technical objections. He should never permit counsel to intimidate or improperly to confuse a witness. He should sum up the evidence to the jury and direct them as to the law applicable thereto.

9. New trials should never be granted for technical errors, but only to prevent miscarriage of justice.

10. Prosecutions for minor offenses, where the accused is not likely to evade the hearing, should be begun by summons as in civil cases.

These suggestions are excellent, and if they shall be adopted by the several States, justice will be secured much more frequently and much more easily. Perhaps the best change recommended is that which would make the prosecutor judicial, rather than partisan, in his attitude. The change suggested in regard to objections to the indictment should prevail, because, if adopted, it will make impossible the dismissal of a case in which the sole error is the omission of a "the" or some other minor immaterial defect in the document.

Something must be done to make the machinery of the law run more smoothly and more justly for all parties concerned. The question is a large one and the problem difficult, but if the bar will support such reasonable reforms as are suggested, all will be well.

THE GIRLS THEY LEFT BEHIND.

"True to the very end to the sweet heart of her girlhood" is the brief but graphic description given in a Nashville dispatch of Miss Martha O'Bryan, who died in Tennessee a few days ago, aged seventy-four. To those who know the history of the Confederacy the name of her lover, Captain John Yates Beall, suggests the tragic tale of his sacrifice for the ill-starred nation which he served with all his heart and soul. Forty-five years ago he was hanged as a Confederate spy at Governor's Island—hardly more than a boy, straight and robust as a young dr. Just entering into manhood's estate, patriotic, brave, with a daring that only death could destroy.

Beall was a Virginian. His was a bold enterprise that would have laid every city from Buffalo to Milwaukee under tribute to the Confederacy and released thousands of prisoners of war to fight for the Stars and Bars in the Middle West. Almost miraculously the consummation of Beall's plan was prevented, and the D'Artagnan of the Southern cause closed his youthful eyes forever on the scaffold of the foe.

What his thoughts were as he made ready to cross the horizon of eternity no man knew or shall know. With brave, boyish air, he walked steadily to the platform of his doom, a Non-Heard lad who was unafraid. In that last hour, his heart must have sent itself through the invisible to a broken-hearted girl, fair and fresh and sweet, whose only romance was soon to be crushed. It must have been of her that Beall thought last in the fading seconds of his final hour. For her and for his country he died.

Though his fiancée was but twenty-nine, he was the only man she ever loved. Inexpressibly saddened by the loss of her gallant lover, she made her life thereafter a noble splendor, doing good works, lending herself to acts of charity and mercy and loving-kindness. In her heart, she carried always the handsome picture of the young captain who faced the sunrise of immortality with a smile. Her memories were those that blessed and burned.

How many there were like her—the girls who were left behind, the girls whose hero-lovers waved goodbye for the last time as they rode lightly off to the fields of death! For many and many a month, these sad-faced ones just entering into womanhood listened for unreturning footsteps and for voices that were to be hushed in war's red wrath. Letters came but rarely, furloughs could not be granted, and agonizing days rolled into months. Then the news of a great battle, the roll of the slain, and death sealed romance with tragedy. Some of these girls married afterward; some remained single through life. Here and there are some of these still, soft-voiced old ladies, who cherish in tender remembrance the old-fashioned daguerreotype of a boyish lad in gray.

WOULD SUIT SHAFTER STREET.

Ten years ago an experiment in wooden blocks for paving was made in Tremont Street, Boston. Half of the street was paved with wooden blocks and half with asphalt. The asphalt had worn out, been renewed and has worn out again; the wooden blocks are as good as new—at least, the people who make the blocks say that such was the case. A large part of downtown New York is now covered with the wooden block roadways, including Broadway from the Battery to the Post-Office, and it is claimed by the manufacturers of the blocks that, not even excepting granite, they make the most durable and satisfactory pavement that has yet been discovered.

Which brings us, naturally, to the point of saying, again, that Shafter Street stands in dire need of the best possible attention the street authorities of the City Council could bestow upon it. Any sort of modern paving would restrain the wrath and sweeten the temper of the good folk who dwell in that street, and it is not at all unlikely that the wooden block pavement would afford them that measure of relief they seek at the hands of the



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patriotically-inclined members of the Council. A noiseless, durable, dustless roadway is what is needed in Shafter Street, particularly should it possess the dustless quality, in order that the people who live up there might be able to see straight.

NEVER SAW A MAD DOG.

Polk Miller has never seen a mad dog—that is to say, a dog suffering from what the doctors call hydrophobia. There are a good many things he has never seen, notwithstanding his frequent tours through North Carolina, even to the uttermost parts of that splendid old Commonwealth, one of the richest in the South in the variety and extent of its natural resources. He does not claim that there is no such thing as hydrophobia, and that dogs are not attacked by it and do not die from it; but he has never seen a mad dog, and writes to the editor of The Times-Dispatch about it as follows:

"Born and reared in the country, and as a boy owning every kind of dog, from a bob-tailed bench-legged pig (which I used for squirrels) to the fox and rabbit hound (also used for foxes and 'coon), and having owned pointers and setters in great numbers since I have lived in Richmond (fifty-one years), I have never been my privilege to meet with a mad dog—with hydrophobia. I have seen policemen on our streets shoot the poor creatures that were sick and in distress from pain, and had no home to go to when the small boy found him cursing and foaming at the mouth, and voted him mad, and reported him to the cops; but the real thing, in the shape of a mad dog, is one thing which I would like to see, and if someone who knows where there is one will kindly report him to me, I will take him out of my trap, and let him go to get a pep in him. A few years ago I thought I had one sure, for a great crowd gathered on the corner of Ninth and Main to see the policeman shoot one that had been taken over town by small boys. When the big policeman had ordered the crowd back and was about to shoot the beast, Barton Grundy ran in front of him and picked up the dog in his arms and brought him into my office. When the poor brute discovered that he had at least one friend, and when he recovered from his fright, he gave a smile of thanks and went on his way rejoicing. I met him on the streets often after that, and he seemed to be happy."

This is very interesting, and exactly suited to the season of the year, and pathetic withal, because of the cruelties that are practiced upon the "lower animals," as we superciliously call them, not with criminal intent, so to say, but in the very abandon of our pleasure. The little dog that was saved from sudden and violent death, as described by our correspondent, could not express his thanks in our language, but, as he lived happily after his rescue and died in good favor finally, he must have appreciated in his heart his deliverance from death. It is hoped that Dr. Miller will never see a mad dog, leastwise, that he shall never be bitten by one, for at his time of life it might go hard with him, and we couldn't spare him yet awhile. But that there is such a thing as hydrophobia, and that dogs have it, and when they have it bite men, who die horrible deaths, there seems to be no reason to doubt.

In 1908, according to the reports of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, one hundred and eleven human beings died in this country of hydrophobia. They represented thirty States of the Union in which the rabies appeared. Rabies was reported in the lower animals from at least 534 localities in thirty-nine States and Territories. Fifteen hundred persons were treated by the Pasteur method for the disease. All the most expert scientists who have treated the disease believe that there is such a thing as hydrophobia, and hundreds of persons who have been bitten by "mad dogs" have died of what the doctors diagnosed as such. All dogs that appear to be mad are not suffering from hydrophobia, however, and if they were treated humanely would frequently recover from their distemper. Polk Miller's letter, as we interpret it, is only intended to keep the brute within a little better disposed to the brutes about us, so that at this season of good will we may take some account of man's most loyal friend, the dog.

The steppes seems to have come out of the thermos bottle down in grand old Charleston this winter. Dr. Coak would find the temperature there just about right for his Arctic disposition. When Governor-elect Cole Clease, of South Carolina, wakes up to-morrow morning, we hope that he will find in his stocking a life subscription to the Columbia State.

Nothing more plainly indicates the individuality of the several States than the way in which the Christmas

turkey is stuffed in their respective confines. In Georgia, the fowl bird is lined with turnip greens; in North Carolina, sauerkraut is similarly used, while in Texas the choicest dressing is made of the Houston onion.

The more we read about Congress, the more we think of the General Assembly of Virginia. In the Congressional Record of Tuesday we find an extended debate on whether or not the House should appropriate money for the purchase of a micrometer. Mr. Mann practically said that nobody in

the House knew what a micrometer was, and, after there had been considerable discussion. The committee reporting the appropriation was very certain that it did not know what a micrometer was. In fact, nobody ventured to give a definition. The Hon. Napoleon B. Thistlewood and the Hon. Asbury Ferdinand Lever looked wise, but said nothing.

Gentlemen going to the Eastern Shore to hunt during the holidays will please not forget to include guns in their baggage.

Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

The Horse in America.

Where did the horse in America originate? Or, in other words, did the Indians possess horses previous to the discovery of America? By what race of people and in what period were they introduced in America?

According to paleontology, the horse is indigenous to the American continent, but it is certain the American horse of to-day is the descendant of animals brought here by Europeans and the first settlers. Cortez used but few horses in his Mexican conquest, but undoubtedly some of them became progenitors of the American wild horse; and similarly the horses abandoned by the unfortunate Ferdinand De Soto near the Texas border became the progenitors of all the wild horses of North America.

The earliest colonists of Virginia were not remarkable for the qualities that make the ideal pioneer, so that it is not surprising to learn that their first supply of domestic animals, including horses, was imported from England. Although there had been several shipments of horses from London down to about 1640, in 1646 there were only between 200 and 300 horses of both sexes in the colony. In 1655 the exportation of mares was prohibited by law, but in 1667 the restriction was removed. The horses of the period are described as having been of hardy and strong quality, but underbred, and,

like the horses in other colonies, they were branded and turned loose to find their own subsistence.

The Word Genre.

Please tell me the meaning of the word "genre," as used in connection with the style of painting done by the late Ludwig Kram. Webster does not have the word.

Genre painting is a representation of some phase of common life, as a domestic interior, a rural or village scene, etc. The term is sometimes used in the same sense with reference to sculpture and the drama. In French it is also applied with a descriptive epithet to other kinds of paintings, as "genre" historical, the historical style, "genre" in landscape, the landscape style. In English writing it is most commonly used in combination as a descriptive term, either with or without a hyphen, as "genre" pictures; a "genre" painter.

Subjects for Essays.

Please print some good subjects for graduation essays for high school girls. E. W. Civil Liberty in America. Conservative Forces of Our Government. A National University. Higher Education of Women. Woman's Political Sphere. Social Democracy. Aristocracy of Wealth. Newspaper's Influence on Society. The Building of Character. What Makes Success in Life.

ROYAL KENNELS WILL NOT BE REPRESENTED

BY LA MARQUE DE FOTENOV.

KING GEORGE has made it known that neither he nor Queen Mary has any intention of sending an exhibit from the royal kennels to the dog shows. He does not consider that the condition of dog breeding in England calls for this sort of endorsement on his part. The royal kennels, however, are not to be taken as a stock raising. Moreover, the dogs which he himself, Queen Mary and the royal children own are kept in the royal kennels in their own particular class, but rather for their homely qualities, and as pets, from which their royal masters and mistresses do not care to separate themselves. To have them placed upon exhibition. It is settled that the King and Queen will visit the royal kennels at Windsor, while February and March will be spent in London, where the achievement of the Queen will take place some time in March. The Easter Parliamentary recess will, according to present arrangements, be so stated that the royal kennels will not be in the country for the sake of fishing, and for a much needed rest, preparatory to the fatigues of the coronation ceremonies and the royal tour in the summer. The Queen will go abroad until after the coronation, and then only for the purpose of paying the customary visit to the Emperor of Austria, who in point of age, is the nearest to the King. The Emperor is the son of the Emperor of Austria, who in point of age, is the nearest to the King. The Emperor is the son of the Emperor of Austria, who in point of age, is the nearest to the King.

her husband, yet that the grand duke is married to the eldest of the two sisters of the Czar, namely, the Grand Duchess Xenia, and that there is but little prospect of his being able to secure a dissolution of his union. No release that the grand duke could obtain from his marriage vows, either in Russia or abroad, would be legal without the sanction of the Czar, unless Alexander, like ex-Emperor Napoleon, sacrificed for the sake of his membership of the imperial family, all his honors and dignities, and became a Russian citizen, and secure naturalization in some foreign country, where divorce may be had for the asking.

The Grand Duchess Xenia and her husband are not much together, and while he is enjoying himself in Paris, she is residing with her children in Italy. The relations between the Emperor and Grand Duke Alexander have been so strained for many years past, notably in connection with Alexander's responsibility for the causes that brought about the unfortunate war with Japan, that the grand duke has lived almost entirely abroad for several years past, and the close intimacy which existed between him and the Czar until 1904 has entirely ceased. According to some, the irritation of the Emperor against the grand duke has been so great that he has even his alleged neglect of the grand duchess, that is to say, of his, the Emperor's sister. According to others, the estrangement between the grand duchess and the grand duke is due to the fact that the latter blamed his wife for her treatment by her brother.

The Grand Duke Alexander, Michael, a soldier yet, will be remembered in this country as having visited the United States at the time of the Columbian celebration, when he was serving as lieutenant on board one of the Russian men-of-war which took part in the naval maneuvers. He was then on duty on that occasion extensively entertained in New York, and in momentary enthusiasm begged a number of his entertainers to visit him in Russia. When two of them—well known club men in New York—took him at his word, and accompanied to Russia, he was warmly received by the grand duke, and they were looking forward to some of the bear shooting which promised him by the grand duke. They found on their arrival at St. Petersburg, that he had forgotten not only their names, but even their very existence, and, completely ignored, they returned after a two days' unpleasant stay on the banks of the Neva to Berlin, Paris and New York, sadder and wiser, without ever having caught a glimpse of the grand duke.

While that, he is a great admirer of many things American, especially of Admiral Mahan, of the United States navy, whose works he has translated into Russian, and distributed among his fellow officers of the Russian navy. (Copyright, 1910, by the Brentwood Company.)

Prince Hans of Holstein-Glücksburg, who has just celebrated his eighty-sixth birthday at Copenhagen, is a younger brother of the late King Christian of Denmark, an uncle therefore of Queen Alexandra and of the late Emperor of Russia. He is the grandchild of King George. He is the most kindly old bachelor that it is possible to imagine, is wonderfully popular, and is a very capable, active, but with the entire Danish people, and was a particularly warm friend of his nephew by marriage, the late King Edward.

Prior to the accession of Edward VII, he was a frequent guest at Marlborough House, and on the occasion of his first visit to his nephew and niece, Prince George (the present King), first and foremost, devoted himself to teaching him every conceivable kind of English game, including him with the impression, however, that it was the choicest language.

The result, when a few days after his arrival he was invited to Windsor to dine with Queen Victoria, was, to say the least, startling. For with the sublime unconsciousness of saying anything that was in the least degree unsuited for the ears of Her Majesty, he treated her to all the London argot which he had learned from the young people at Marlborough House, and gave utterance to music hall songs and slang of every conceivable nature, with an air of profound deference, and even solemnity, that rendered the scene irretrievably comic.

It was only after Queen Victoria had made up her mind to ask him in German where he had picked up his English, and learned that he had no instructors, that she gave free rein to her mirth, in which all present joined, greatly to the relief, as they had experienced the most difficultly in suppressing their laughter.

Queen Victoria, although very austere looking and imperious in manner, had an extremely keen sense of humor, and enjoyed a hearty laugh as well as any of her subjects, and never forgot when Prince Hans (whose baptismal name is John), visited her on subsequent occasions, to remind him of the terrible solecisms of which he had rendered himself guilty when he first attempted to air his English at her dinner table.

Newspapers which have given currency to reports, cabled and otherwise, of the possibility of a morganatic marriage between the Russian Grand Duke Alexander Michailovitch and Mrs. George Lee Thompson, Jr., of Philadelphia, apparently fail to recall the fact that although the grand duke is engaged in divorce litigation with

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